

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 23, 25-39, and 44 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant AMENDS claims 23 and 25 and CANCELS claim 24.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection because this application is in condition for allowance because the Examiner indicated that claim 24 was allowable and because Applicant has amended claim 23 to recite the feature recited in allowable claim 24 and has amended claim 25 to depend upon claim 23. See MPEP § 714.13.

Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 24-26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. As noted above, Applicant has amended claim 23 to recite the feature that was recited in allowable claim 24 and has amended claim 25 to depend upon claim 23. Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's claim 23 is allowable for the same reasons that claim 24 was indicated as being allowable.

On page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 23, 32-39, and 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Hirooka (US 2003/0036025). On page 6 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 27-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Hirooka (US 2003/0036025), and further in view of Hirooka (JP 2004-127442).

As noted above, Applicant has amended claim 23 to recite the features of allowable claim 24 and has amended claim 25 to depend upon claim 23. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that these prior art rejections are moot.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art of record, applied alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest the unique combination and arrangement of elements recited in claim 23 of the present application. Claims 25-39 and 44 depend upon claim 23 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 23 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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